From: Richard Hansen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I do not like the proposed settlement.

Particularly, I don't like how loose the definition of "API" is
(definition A).

Also, as far as I can tell, there is no requirement that Microsoft
discloses known limitations, bugs, or security issues in the API's (once
they are discovered). I would like to see that included because
software developers' products are often directly affected by bugs in
Microsoft's products. Microsoft knows about the bugs/limitations and
can develop software products around the problem, but third party
developers are sometimes left to suffer bad PR because of bugs that are
not their fault. One may argue that Microsoft could purposely introduce
undocumented bugs and limitations in order to limit functionality of
third party and competing software products.

Section III.J.1. should be phrased much more carefully. I believe there
are too many obscurities that would allow Microsoft to not document many
important API's.

In general, I agree with the arguments made in the following essay:

http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html

Richard Hansen